

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of recovering a cancerous cell comprising the steps of:

preparing a sample comprising a collected naturally voided stool to which a buffer solution is added, at room temperature;

causing a cancer cell in said sample from which said impurity has been removed to be adsorbed on a solid carrier; and

recovering the thus adsorbed cancer cell.

2. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of removing an impurity from said sample using a filter.

3. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein all of the steps for the recovery of a cancerous cell are conducted without temperature control.

4. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of causing the cancerous cell in the sample from which impurity has been removed to be adsorbed on the solid carrier and the step of recovering the adsorbed cancerous cell are also conducted at room temperature.

5. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said buffer solution contains blood serum.

6. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of said buffer solution is equal to or more than the amount of said stool.

7. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein on the surface of said solid carrier is immobilized an antibody against an antigen on the surface of an epithelial cell and/or epithelial cancer cell.

8. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said solid carrier is a magnetic bead, and wherein the recovery is carried out using a magnet.

9. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said room temperature is not less than 15°C and not more than 35°C.

10. (Currently amended) A cell recovery apparatus comprising:
a bag for storing a sample comprising a buffer solution and stool at room temperature; and

a filter by which a stool suspension produced in the bag can be filtered to remove an impurity in the sample and to recover filtered solution;

a solid carrier having a surface having an affinity for cancer cells;

a container in which ~~a the solid carrier for the adsorption of a cell in said sample is stored~~ and the filtered solution can be stored; and

a dispensing portion for dispensing the filtered solution directly into the container.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The cell recovery apparatus according to claim 11, wherein ~~said the~~ filter portion is made up of ~~one or more~~ a plurality of filters with different coarseness.

13. (Currently amended) The cell recovery apparatus according to claim 10, wherein ~~said the~~ container is provided with an agitating means for agitating at least one of ~~said the~~ solid carrier and ~~said the~~ sample.

14. (Currently amended) The cell recovery apparatus according to claim 10, wherein ~~said the~~ solid carrier is a magnetic bead, and wherein a recovering magnet is further provided near ~~said the~~ container.

15. (Original) The cell recovery apparatus according to claim 10, wherein no temperature control means is provided.

16. (New) The cell recovery apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the filter has a pore size between 400 and 1000 μm .

17. (New) The cell recovery apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the filter is provided in the bag.

18. (New) The cell recovery apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the bag is a stomacher bag.

19. (New) The cell recovery apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the bag is a stomacher bag.

20. (New) The cell recovery apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the solid carrier is a BerEP4 antibody-binding magnetic bead, and wherein a recovering magnet is further provided near the container.

21. (New) The cell recovery apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the cell recovery apparatus does not include a centrifuge.